

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034984

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG

SUBJECT: UNESCO: VIEWS OF AUSTRALIAN MEMBER OF
EXECUTIVE BOARD ON FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

1. PROFESSOR HUGH PHILP, REPEAT PHILP, IS AUSTRALIAN
MEMBER OF UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND CAN BE CONTACTED AT
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY, NORTH RYDE, NSW, 2113; TELEPHONE
888-8000.

2. REQUEST THAT EMBASSY, OR AT ITS DISCRETION CONGEN,

CONTACT PROFESSOR PHILP AND ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY A STATE-
MENT THAT HE MADE IN CONVERSATION HE HAD IN DEPT IN
SEPTEMBER 1975 WHEN HE WAS EN ROUTE TO EX BD MEETING IN
PARIS.

3. BACKGROUND OF HIS REMARK WAS THE UNESCO PROVISION IN
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS THAT A MEMBER STATE THAT IS TWO
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YEARS IN ARREARS IN PAYMENT OF ITS ASSESSMENTS WILL

HAVE NO VOTE IN GENERAL CONFERENCE. THERE ARE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN UNESCO CONSTITUTION AND GENERAL CONFERENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE THAT PERMIT A DELINQUENT MEMBER TO REQUEST EXEMPTION FROM LOSS OF VOTE PROVISIONS IF ITS ARREARS ARE DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND ITS CONTROL. IN SUCH CASE, THE DELINQUENT STATE ITSELF MUST REQUEST RESTORATION OF VOTE.

4. WE RECALL THAT PROFESSOR PHILP REFERRED TO A PRACTICE, NOT NECESSARILY A DEFINITE PROVISION OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, BUT A PRACTICE WHEREBY ANY DELEGATE AT A GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO MIGHT MOVE TO HAVE THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS SUSPENDED, IN WHICH CASE ALL DELINQUENT MEMBERS WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE ALTHOUGH NONE WOULD BE SPECIFICALLY NAMED IN THE MOTION. PHILP SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN DONE NO MORE THAN ON ONE OCCASION IN THE PAST.

5. DEPT WOULD LIKE CONFIRMATION THAT THAT IS INDEED WHAT PHILP SAID, AND THAT HE HAS KNOWLEDGE THAT THE PROCEDURE HAS BEEN USED AT SPECIFIC GENERAL CONFERENCES OF UNESCO. WE EMPHASIZE THAT OUR QUESTION CONCERNS NOT THE PROVISIONS OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, NO. 79, OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE THAT PERMITS A DELINQUENT GOVERNMENT TO SEEK RESOTRATION OF ITS VOTE, BUT A PRACTICE WHEREBY A MEMBER, NOT NECESSARILY ITSELF DELINQUENT, CAN REQUEST A BLANKET SUSPENSION OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS. SUCH A PRACTICE MIGHT BE DERIVED FROM RULE OF PROCEDURE NO. 108 WHICH PERMITS ANY RULE OF PROCEDURE TO BE SUSPENDED BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE OF DELEGATES ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE.

6. THE U. S. HAS LOST ITS RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE FORTH-COMING 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO BECAUSE OF ARREARAGES IN PAYMENTS OF ITS ASSESSMENTS. OUR INTEREST IN CLARIFYING PROFESSOR PHILP'S REMARKS DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATE THAT THE U. S. IS CONSIDERING AT THIS POINT AN ATTEMPT TO REGAIN ITS VOTING RIGHTS WITHOUT PAYMENT OF ITS ASSESSMENTS. WE MERELY WISH TO BE INFORMED ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM. KISSINGER
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